गृहों की स्थापना के लिए तथा कार्यकर्त्ताओं के प्रशिक्षण के लिए केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा समान अंशदान के आधार पर अनुदान के रूप में वित्तीय सहायता दी जाती है ।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Waiving of Loans and Taxes of Farmers

811. SHRl BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have giv en any guidelines to the State Govern-
—ments for waiving of loans and taxes on the farmers in view of the grave drought conditions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENNDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) As a policy, the Government of India are not in favour of any measures involving write off/waiver $_{F}$ of loans and taxes on the farmers, as these tend to vitiate the climate of recovery, encourage wilful default and undermine the viability of credit institutions. However, there are inbuilt provisions under the existing institutional arrangement; for conversion/ re-sechedulement of loans in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities like drought. In addition, Gov-Tfemment of India have introduced a comprehensive crop insurance scheme with a view to provide relief to the loanee farmers in the event of natural calamities. Due to failure of monsoon and consequent severe drought conditions, NABARD has advised the co-operative/commercial banks to extend necessary assistance to the affected borrowers in various States in *raising* alternate short duration crop^{c}. wherever feasible. Further, small farmers having default upto 20 per cent of eligibility could now be considered as eligible for fresh finance.

Mini Steel Plants in U. P.

812. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mini steel plants functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present and how many are lying idle; and

(b) whether Government have made any assessment on the functioning of mini steel plants in U. P., if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) 26 mini-steel plants with a capacity of 5. 43 lakh tonnes per annum are installed in Uttar Pradesh. As per the latest report, three of these units are lying closed.

(b) No, Sir.

Drought relief to Karnataka

813. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOW DA: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Drought withers crops in Karnataka" as reported in the Indian Express dated 26th August, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the Central Gov ernment have given any kind of help to the Karnataka Government to *meet* the drought situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c<) In response to the memorandum submitted by the State Government for drought relief, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 34. 07 crores has been approved for relief measures for 1987 drought. In addition, a sum of Rs. 12. 50 crores and Rs. 6. 75 lakhs has also been approved for completion